



## **Petition for Voter ID Law – Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** If non-citizens can get a Massachusetts driver's license, how does this ballot initiative, which requires a "photo ID" issued by the federal or state government, prevent non-citizens from voting?

**Answer:** The requirement to be a citizen to vote is already the law. Anyone who is a non-citizen and votes is committing a felony violation of the law. Because the legislature rejected an amendment that would have made the driver's license for a non-citizen distinguishable, it makes assuring accurate elections that much harder.

However, this law will help because 1) a voter will need to show identification, greatly reducing the risk of identity theft, 2) the attestation available for those without a photo ID includes attesting to citizenship, and 3) the voter identification requirement will be necessary for mail-in ballots.

***Fundamentally, this law is intended to prevent identity theft.*** It is a Voter Identification law, not a citizenship law.

**Question:** Is it the case that a non-citizen who presents a correct Mass driver's license at the polls or includes a copy of the driver's license with a mail-in ballot will not be prevented from voting by this initiative?

**Answer:** When a person votes, the person must be on the voter roll of the town or city in which registered to vote. The only checking a town or city clerk can do is to determine whether a voter is on the voter roll. A person presenting a driver's license who is not on the voter roll cannot vote whether that person is a citizen or non-citizen.

It's up to the Registry of Motor Vehicles and Secretary of the Commonwealth to assure that non-citizens do not make it onto the voter rolls. That is their legal responsibility codified in the Work and Family Mobility Act (WFMA) which enables non-citizens to get a driver's license. See Section 9, [Bill H.4461 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)